

Public Affairs Update May 1-31, 2020



Here is the latest summary of stories and coverage of South Carolina National Guard Soldiers and Airmen supporting the National Guard mission to provide ready units to conduct operations that support and defend our fellow citizens, the Constitution of the United States of America, and South Carolina, whenever and wherever the threat arises or the need exists. The South Carolina National Guard is a premier organization of diverse Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen who are Ready, Relevant, Resilient and Responsible to our communities, state, and nation in time of need, and who are led by competent, capable, caring, and professional leaders and live by the values of loyalty, excellence in all we do, accountability, duty, emphasis on community, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage.

June is National Safety Month and the start of Hurricane Season. The attached has statistics for leaders to discuss with their service members in response to activities related to the summer holidays, heat, and hurricane season, provided by the state safety office.

SCETV has released the South Carolina National Guard documentary - We have a Story to Tell: 350 Years of the South Carolina National Guard. If you missed it airing on TV, you can find it here:

<https://video.scetv.org/video/we-have-a-story-to-tell-zjwaje/>

They have also produced a mini-documentary covering the South Carolina National Guard's response to COVID: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4_p7vczhE0

The South Carolina Military Museum is reopening to the public today, Monday, June 1 at 10:00 AM with updated hours of operation! As always admission to the museum is free, but we request that visitors follow social distancing guidelines by remaining six feet apart and utilizing the hand sanitizing stations located throughout the galleries. We also encourage that face masks be worn for the safety of our visitors and staff. To combat COVID-19 the museum will undergo daily cleaning to ensure a safe environment for those who wish to visit.

Please share with your Soldiers that they can find the postings for full-time employment opportunities on the South Carolina National Guard website, accessible without a CAC card:

<https://www.scguard.ng.mil/Resources/Employment-Opportunities/>

Also, as we enter an election cycle, please share with your Soldiers, Airmen, and civilian employees guidance on engaging in political activity: <https://www.scguard.ng.mil/Resources/Political-Guidance/>

Non-COVID-19 response

South Carolina National Guard conducts dignified transfer of 1st Lt. Trevarius Bowman

The South Carolina National Guard conducted a dignified transfer of U.S. Army 1st Lt. Trevarius Bowman, 198th Signal Battalion, Company B, returning his remains to his family in Spartanburg, South Carolina, May 31, 2020. Bowman died of non-combat related injuries May 19, 2020 while deployed to Afghanistan.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714525005736>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbJca57mVfM&feature=youtu.be>

South Carolina National Guard announces next 59th Troop Command commander

The South Carolina National Guard announces U.S. Army Lt. Col. Herman Crosson as the next brigade commander of the 59th Troop Command, headquartered at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, effective June 1, 2020.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/371080/south-carolina-national-guard-announces-next-59th-troop-command-commander>

South Carolina National Guard conducts Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony 2020

U.S. Army National Guard chaplains with the South Carolina National Guard conduct a ceremony May 21, 2020 in Columbia, South Carolina in honor of remembering those who served in the South Carolina National Guard and have passed away. Memorial Day is a time to remember those that have served our country and paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdVBcumS-vw>

263rd AAMDC conducts remembrance service

U.S. Army National Guard Chaplain Kevin Thompson (Maj.), conducts a Service of Remembrance, remembering those who have served in the South Carolina National Guard and have passed, May 21, 2020 at the Anderson Readiness Center in Anderson, South Carolina. This service is a celebration of the sacrifice and contributions these Soldiers made during their years with the South Carolina National Guard.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714487711238>

South Carolina National Guard recognizes healthcare professionals within the ranks during EMS Week

The South Carolina National Guard is made up of citizen-Soldiers and Airmen who serve in the National Guard, as well as have civilian careers. May 17-23, 2020 is recognized as National EMS Week and we are highlighting some of the healthcare professionals within our ranks who have been working to protect the health of the force during the COVID-19 response efforts in South Carolina.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zxcQC68rRbs>

Senior leader visits South Carolina Youth ChalleNGE

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Jones, deputy adjutant general for the South Carolina Military Department, visits cadets with the South Carolina Youth ChalleNGe Academy, May 19, 2020, at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina after their return from a break in the program due to COVID-19 precautions. The South Carolina Youth ChalleNGe Academy is a community-based, structured program that leads, trains, and mentors youth, ages 16-18, to assist them in becoming productive, responsible, and successful citizens. The program is implementing safety and hygiene measures to ensure the health of the cadets while attending the academy.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714463697918>

169th Fighter Wing Airmen honor 9/11 victims

The South Carolina Air National Guard's 169th Maintenance Group honored the memory of those who died on Sept. 11, 2001 with a commemorative paint job on one of the SCANG's F-16 aircraft.

Story: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/370261/169th-fighter-wing-airmen-honor-9-11-victims>

South Carolina National Guard conducts Apache live-fire, FARP

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Company D, 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, conduct a forward arming and refueling point (FARP) at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina in support of a live-fire exercise at Poinsett Range, May, 13, 2020. The FARP is an essential operation to keep the AH-64 Apache helicopters armed and fueled during a mission.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714370577433>

South Carolina National Guard engineers conduct storm debris clearing

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 122nd Engineer Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, help clear debris in Pickens County, South Carolina, May 5, 2020, in the aftermath of storms that impacted the state, April 13. The South Carolina National Guard is capable of supporting in response to storms and other natural disasters in the state in support of civilian partners for as long as needed.

May 5: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714177461536>

May 3: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714166222952>

COVID-19 response

South Carolina National Guard supports testing sites

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard direct support mobile testing sites throughout the state.

May 22: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714490316923>

May 21: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714477265918>

May 19: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714467855092>

May 18: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714368883098>

May 15: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714354452996>

May 15: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714318073712>

May 14: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714314444217>

May 14: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714312776671>

May 14: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714305763863>

May 13: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714301367962>

May 7: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714207599498>

May 5: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714290536307>

May 4: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714168801578>

South Carolina National Guard receives COVID-19 testing training

U.S. Army National Guard medical personnel with the South Carolina National Guard receive training in obtaining nasal and oral swabs for COVID-19 testing from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, May 21, 2020.

The training certified the National Guard members as South Carolina Emergency Medical Technicians.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714490440892>

263rd AAMDC conducts AAR for COVID-19 response efforts

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC), South Carolina National Guard, participated in an After Action Review (AAR), May 15, 2020 at the Anderson Readiness Center in Anderson, South Carolina, evaluating the improves, sustains, and lessons learned during their recent mobilization in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/370324/263rd-army-air-and-missile-defense-command-conducts-after-action-review-covid-19-response-efforts>

169th Fighter Wing commander shares COVID-19 response message

U.S. Air Force Col. Akshai Gandhi, 169th Fighter Wing commander, shares an update highlighting the South Carolina Air National Guard Airmen activated in support of COVID-19 response efforts and emphasizing missions accomplished and the readiness of the 169th Fighter Wing.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6zILbpzIHg>

South Carolina National Guard state surgeon shares medical personnel update message

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Garrick Messer, South Carolina Army National Guard state surgeon, provides a message highlighting the work of the South Carolina National Guard medical personnel in support of COVID-19 response efforts. The South Carolina National Guard remains ready to support the counties, local and state agencies, and first responders with requested resources for as long as needed in support of COVID-19 response efforts in the state.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2sNgDqPfW0>

South Carolina National Guard delivers meals, books to children

U.S. Army Warrant Officer James Hughes, 117th Engineer Brigade, describes the mission of the South Carolina National Guard in support of the South Carolina Department of Education. U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Joint Task Force 59, South Carolina National Guard, transport and

distribute school breakfasts, lunches, and books in Horry County, South Carolina, in support of Horry County schools and the South Carolina Department of Education. The support from the South Carolina National Guard allows the South Carolina Department of Education to continue providing meals to children during the COVID-19 school closures.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2W8IBdUbhM>

South Carolina National Guard trains with SCDHEC on tent setup

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Joint Task Force 59, South Carolina National Guard, train with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control on setting up and dismantling deployable medical shelters at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, May 11, 2020, to familiarize the Soldiers with the equipment in case the state's healthcare system determines the need for the shelters in support of COVID-19 response efforts.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714289382493>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=et5yV8NisVo>

Senior leaders visit activated Soldiers

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Jones, deputy adjutant general for the South Carolina Military Department, visits U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard who have been activated in support of COVID-19 response efforts in the state with Jones presenting four Soldiers with a coin in recognition of their outstanding performance during this time. The South Carolina National Guard, in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Education, have been transporting and distributing school breakfasts and lunches in Horry County, South Carolina. The support from the South Carolina National Guard allows the South Carolina Department of Education to continue providing meals to children during the COVID-19 school closures.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714290819127>

South Carolina National Guard assembles face masks

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard assemble personal protective face masks in Charleston, South Carolina, May 5, 2020, in support of the Medical University of South Carolina to provide to frontline workers during COVID-19 response efforts.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714300040701>

Service Member & Family Care Health & Wellness Program update during COVID-19

The South Carolina National Guard Service Member and Family Care Program offers free services to South Carolina's military community. It is our mission to help service members, veterans, and their families to be Ready, Resilient, Relevant, and Responsible. Reach out to your local health and wellness coach for information on how you can make good choices during COVID-19 lockdown precautions.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TeYXTzcoS20>

South Carolina National Guard supports local food bank

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard help distribute food in McCormick, South Carolina in support of Golden Harvest Food Bank.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714169155923>

South Carolina National Guard supports food bank in Abbeville

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard help distribute food in Abbeville, South Carolina in support of Second Harvest Food Bank, May 1, 2020.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714167108796>

External Media Coverage:

McMaster Oks SC National Guard support for Charleston, Columbia

"We do not tolerate lawlessness, violence and destruction of our property and our people," McMaster said during an afternoon press conference where he announced that S.C. National Guard troops have been made available to back up police agencies if needed.

Post & Courier:

https://www.postandcourier.com/news/mcmaster-oks-sc-national-guard-support-for-charleston-columbia/article_d0761cb8-a35e-11ea-8fd0-a7ad3f52c44c.html

CountOn2:

<https://www.counton2.com/news/local-news/charleston-county-news/city-of-charleston-requests-assistance-from-sc-national-guard/>

FTSNews:

<https://www.fitsnews.com/2020/05/31/national-guard-heading-to-charleston-south-carolina-in-aftermath-of-george-floyd-riots/>

WBTW:

<https://www.wbtw.com/news/state-regional-news/city-of-charleston-requests-assistance-from-sc-national-guard/>

WMBF:

<https://www.wmbfnews.com/2020/05/31/governor-mcmaster-hold-press-briefing-with-law-enforcement-officials/>

The State: <https://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article243136226.html>

Live5:

<https://www.live5news.com/2020/05/31/black-lives-matter-group-hold-peaceful-protest-outside-charleston-church/>

SC National Guard makes history with new commander

The South Carolina National Guard is making history with their newest selection for the next brigade commander of the 59th Troop Command.

Story:

<https://www.wltx.com/article/news/local/sc-national-guard-makes-history-hires-african-american-brigade-commander-of-the-59th-troop-command/101-ce1df387-a99e-4351-a803-2127ef190096>

Rep. Cunningham submits bill to provide healthcare benefits to SC National Guard members

Reps. Joe Cunningham and Steven Palazzo (R-MS) introduced bi-partisan legislation that would provide healthcare benefits to National Guard members serving during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Story:

<https://abcnews4.com/news/local/rep-cunningham-submits-bill-to-provide-healthcare-benefits-to-sc-national-guard-members>

South Carolina National Guard officer dies in Afghanistan

1st Lt. Trevarius Ravon Bowman, 25, from Spartanburg, South Carolina, died from a non-combat-related incident on Tuesday, the Defense Department said in a press release. Officials said the incident is under investigation, and did not release any other details on the cause of death.

Army Times:

<https://www.armytimes.com/news/your-army/2020/05/21/south-carolina-national-guard-lieutenant-who-died-in-non-combat-incident-on-bagram-identified/>

WLTX:

<https://www.wltx.com/article/news/local/sc-national-guard-soldier-dies-in-afghanistan/101-f427c68a-3e72-4a5e-9d4d-753e81ae5b3d>

Military.com:

<https://www.military.com/daily-news/2020/05/21/lieutenant-south-carolina-army-national-guard-dies-afghanistan.html>

Post & Courier:

https://www.postandcourier.com/militarydigest/sc-national-guard-soldier-from-spartanburg-dies-in-afghanistan/article_4de2126e-9b68-11ea-a192-6fc4f14aa2f7.html

Fox6Now:

<https://fox6now.com/2020/05/25/army-soldier-from-south-carolina-dies-in-non-combat-related-incident-in-afghanistan/>

1st State Update:

<http://firststateupdate.com/2020/05/south-carolina-guardsman-who-died-in-afghanistan-arrives-in-dover/>

“It’s really rewarding”: S.C. National Guard distributes meals, books to Horry County students

During the coronavirus pandemic, the S.C. National Guard was on a mission to make sure students were being fed, while also putting a smile on their faces by giving out books.

Story:

<https://www.wmbfnews.com/2020/05/15/its-really-rewarding-sc-national-guard-distributes-meals-books-horry-county-students/>

SC National Guard sets up medical tent in Columbia for coronavirus testing

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Joint Task Force 59, South Carolina National Guard, set up a deployable medical shelter in Columbia on May 14, 2020, to conduct COVID-19 testing.

Story: <https://www.thestate.com/news/coronavirus/article242745296.html>

678th ADA Brigade prepares for deployment to Germany

The 678th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Brigade, South Carolina National Guard, arrived at Fort Stewart, Ga. to complete their post-mobilization training and be certified by the 188th Infantry Brigade, on May 11.

Story:

https://www.postandcourier.com/moultrie-news/news/valor/678th-air-defense-artillery-brigade-prepares-for-deployment-to-germany/article_61daa8d4-a109-11ea-bb39-af2fbc00461e.html

SC National Guard helps construct COVID-19 screening tents

Members of the South Carolina National Guard continue to assist with the fight against COVID-19.

Story:

<https://abcnews4.com/news/coronavirus/sc-national-guard-helps-construct-covid-19-screening-tents>

SC National Guard working with SCDC medical staff to help quarantined inmates

The members of the SC National Guard are working with SCDC medical staffers by taking temps or checking on inmates on quarantine at Kirkland and Allendale.

The State: <https://www.thestate.com/news/coronavirus/article242449951.html>

ABC4:

<https://abcnews4.com/news/coronavirus/sc-national-guard-working-with-scdc-medical-staff-on-to-help-quarantined-inmates>

Priorities of Public Affairs

Priorities of Public Affairs coverage include real-world crisis events, joint exercises, training, high-visibility community events, deployments and homecomings, newsworthy situations that support current events and South Carolina National Guard support or involvement, special emphasis events that support recognized DoD themes or campaigns, and designated patriotic holidays and events that support the South Carolina community, and the adjutant general's priorities of recruiting and retention, professional military education, individual and collective training, and accountability through effectively leveraging limited resources according to laws, regulations, and policies to maximize individual and unit readiness. The most recent annual report for the SC Military Department can be found here:

<https://www.scguard.ng.mil/Portals/45/Documents/annual%20reports/Annual%20Report%202019.pdf?ver=2019-12-09-120622-060>

Please contact the South Carolina National Guard Public Affairs office for coverage of events that meet the criteria.

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